IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented) A method for speech synthesis by a grapheme/phoneme conversion, comprising:

searching for subwords of a given word in a database which contains phonetic transcriptions of words, the given word having a subword registered in the database, and a further constituent which is not registered in the database;

selecting a phonetic transcription from the database for the subword;

phonetically transcribing the further constituent of the given word with the aid of an out-of-vocabulary (OOV) treatment, the out-of-vocabulary (OOV) treatment of the further constituent being performed as a function of the phonetic transcription of the subword; and

combining the phonetic transcription of the subword and the phonetic transcription of the further constituent.

2. (cancelled)

3. (previously presented) The method for speech synthesis as claimed in claim 1, wherein

the given word has at least first and second subwords registered in the database,

a search is made for both the first and second subwords in the database,

a phonetic transcription is selected from the database for both the first and second subwords,

the phonetic transcription of the first and second subwords and the phonetic transcription of the further constituent are combined,

the further constituent in the given word is arranged between the first subword and the second subword, and

the out-of-vocabulary (OOV) treatment for phonetic transcription of the further constituent is performed as a function of the phonetic transcription of the first subword and the phonetic transcription of the second subword.

4. (cancelled)

5. (previously presented) The method for speech synthesis as claimed in claim 1, wherein

the searching for subwords in the database is performed by searching for subwords

which have a prescribed minimum length.

6. (previously presented) The method for speech synthesis as claimed in claim 1, wherein

if a plurality of subwords are found for the same word part, the longest subword is selected therefrom.

7. (previously presented) The method for speech synthesis as claimed in claim 1, wherein

the out-of-vocabulary (OOV) treatment for phonetic transcription of the further constituent is performed by a neuron network.

8. (previously presented) The method for speech synthesis as claimed in claim 1, wherein

the out-of-vocabulary (OOV) treatment for phonetic transcription of the further constituent is performed by a rule-based method.

9. (previously presented) The method for speech synthesis as claimed in claim 1, wherein

the subword is found in a first database, and

the out-of-vocabulary (OOV) treatment for phonetic transcription of the further constituent is performed by a second database which contains the phonetic transcription of filling particles normally used in the case of composite words.

10. (previously presented) A system for speech synthesis by means of a grapheme/phoneme conversion, comprising:

a search unit to search subwords of a given word in a database which contains phonetic transcriptions of words, the given word having a subword registered in the database, and a further constituent which is not registered in the database;

a selection unit to select a phonetic transcription registered in the database for the subword;

a transcription unit to phonetically transcribe the further constituent of the given word with the aid of an out-of-vocabulary (OOV) treatment, the out-of-vocabulary (OOV) treatment of the further constituent being performed as a function of the phonetic transcription of the subword;

and

an adder to combine the phonetic transcription of the subword and the phonetic transcription of the further constituent.

11. (previously presented) A computer readable medium storing a speech synthesis program for controlling a computer to perform a method comprising:

searching for subwords of a given word in a database which contains phonetic transcriptions of words, the given word having a subword found in the database, and further constituent which is not registered in the database;

selecting a phonetic transcription registered in the database for the subword;

phonetically transcribing the further constituent of the given word with the aid of an out-of-vocabulary (OOV) treatment, the out-of-vocabulary (OOV) treatment of the further constituent being performed as a function of the phonetic transcription of the subword; and

combining the phonetic transcription of the subword found and the phonetic transcription of the further constituent.

12. (cancelled)

13. (previously presented) The method for speech synthesis as claimed in claim 4, wherein

the searching for subwords in the database is performed by searching for subwords which have a prescribed minimum length.

14. (previously presented) The method for speech synthesis as claimed in claim 13, wherein

if a plurality of subwords are found for the same word part, the longest subword is selected therefrom.

15. (previously presented) The method for speech synthesis as claimed in claim 14, wherein

the out-of-vocabulary (OOV) treatment for phonetic transcription of the further constituent is performed by a neuron network.

16. (previously presented) The method for speech synthesis as claimed in claim 15,

wherein

the out-of-vocabulary (OOV) treatment for phonetic transcription of the further constituent is performed by a rule-based method.

17. (previously presented) The method for speech synthesis as claimed in claim 16, wherein

the subwords are found in a first database, and

the out-of-vocabulary (OOV) treatment for phonetic transcription of the further constituent is performed by a second database which contains the phonetic transcription of filling particles normally used in the case of composite words.

18. (previously presented) A method for speech synthesis of a given word having a subword registered in a database, which contains phonetic transcriptions of words, and having a further constituent which is not registered in the database, comprising:

searching in the database for a subword of a minimum length;

searching in the database for subwords having a length greater than the minimum length;

selecting the phonetic transcription of the longest subword retrieved;

phonetically transcribing the further constituent of the given word with an out-of-vocabulary (OOV) treatment as a function of the selected phonetic transcription of the subword, the out-of-vocabulary (OOV) treatment of the further constituent being performed as a function of the phonetic transcription of the subword;

combining the selected phonetic transcription of the subword and the phonetic transcription of the further constituent.